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"COMMUNITY LIFESTYLE NEWSPAPER"

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New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, left, and Mayor Bill de Blasio discuss the state and city's preparedness for the spread of the coronavirus last week.

COVID-19 puts New York on lockdown

By Patland Maitland
editor@streethypenewspaper.com

The state is reporting 7,102 total positive cases of COVID-19, with about 4,000 of those cases in New York City and 798 in Westchester County just north of the city, the state department is reporting. There have been 21 deaths from the virus in New York. Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Friday (March 20) that ordered all non-essential businesses to close and send home 100% of their workforce. US Tax deadline moves from April 15th to July 15th.

In an effort to stop the spread of the virus, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on Monday (March 16) signed an executive order directing all schools in New York to close by Wednesday, March 16 for two weeks ending April 1.

The Governor also announced that there will be no gatherings of 50 people or more in New York, Connecticut and New Jersey. Malls, casinos, gyms, theaters will be closed as of 8:00 pm on Monday, March 16 until further notice. Bars and restaurants will be closed, but takeout can be ordered during the period of closure.

The Governor strongly advise only services and businesses that are essential stay open after 8:00 pm. Non-essential state workers will work from home. All local governments must reduce their workforce by at least 50%. New York State will waive all park fees in state, local and county parks.

The Coronavirus which was first detected in China is now spreading worldwide. The symptoms may cause mild to severe respiratory symptoms like cough, fever, trouble breathing and/or pneumonia.

The CDC believes at this time that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus. Individuals who are experiencing symptoms and may have traveled to areas of concern, or have been in contact with somebody who has traveled to these areas, should call ahead to their health care provider before seeking treatment in person.

Most cases are now likely to be spread from person to person by droplets when coughing.

The status for required mandatory quarantine is a person that has been in close contact (6 ft.) with someone who is positive, but is not displaying symptoms for COVID-19; or person has traveled to China, Iran, Japan, South Korea or Italy and is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

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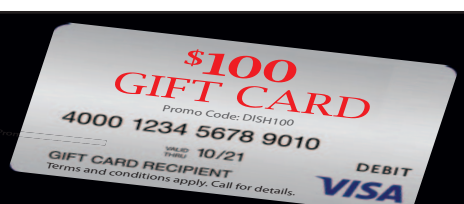

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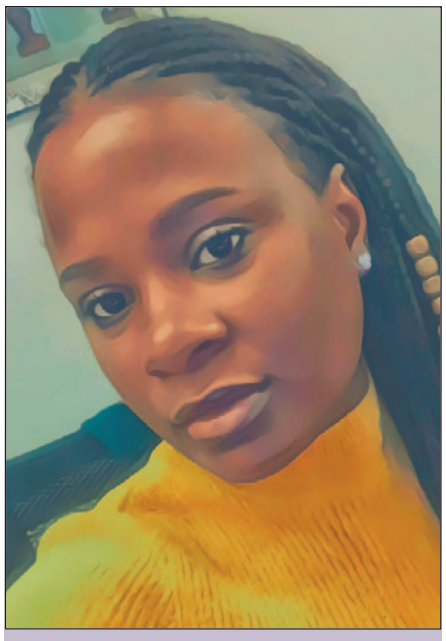
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

EDITORIAL

Corona puts the City to Sleep



By Solemn_Vow
editor@streethype.net

The Coronavirus (Covid-19) is quickly spreading across the US, with New York State is now recording the highest number of reported cases. At 1,544 cases, New York is now ahead of Washington (904) and California (557).

The number of people infected is increasing by the moment, bringing a shock wave through the State. Over the weekend, people are emptying the supermarkets and corporate chain stores such as Costco, ShopRite. Everybody is buying canned items and food in bulks. Many stores are also being raided for tissues and bread, leaving many questioning the reasoning behind the high purchase of these products.

However, the noticeable change is how the city is slowly becoming a ghost town as people are seeking safety in their homes. The city's mayor Bill de Blasio and New York State Governor, Andrew Cuomo had decided to close schools, restaurants, movie theatres, churches, synagogues and any place that can generate a crowd to lessen the number of people being infected by the virus.

New York City is known as the big apple, and the city that never sleeps is now being forced to take a nap. I urge you all not to take this time lightly but use this time to connect with those you have been neglecting because of your work schedule.

It is not necessarily a vacation time as there are nowhere to vacate. Take the time to check up on your family members and friends and primarily use this time to check –inwards. I think the Coronavirus has offered us the opportunity to take a Sabbath besides we all need it.

Slowing down is not always a bad thing; it is what we do with the time that counts - as this might determine what will occur in the months to come.

We must play our part in helping to stop the spread of the contagious Covid-19.

The opinions expressed in this newspaper, except for the above, do not necessarily reflect the views of Street Hype Newspaper and its publishers. Please send your comments and or suggestions to editor@streethypenewspaper.com. Responses should be no longer than 400 words. Not all articles will be published.

State of Emergency Declared In Mount Vernon

By Shawyn Patterson-Howard
City of Mount Vernon

The City of Mount Vernon has declared a State of Emergency effective immediately. Due to the spread of the coronavirus outbreak across the country, and there are grave concerns that the City of Mount Vernon is extremely vulnerable to the spread of Covid-19.

The following steps during this State of Emergency:

• We are strongly urging Mount Vernon residents to stay inside their home from 9pm-5am, excluding those who are traveling for work. Personal care businesses such as beauty salons, makeup studios, barbershops, spas, massage parlors, and nail salons are ordered to close starting on Wednesday.

• We are recommending all businesses that are not grocery stores, pharmacies, banks and gas stations to close their stores by 5pm starting Wednesday and going forth operate between 11am and 5pm.

• As we monitor the outbreak, we may close all businesses excluding health care operations, grocery stores, shelters, media outlets, gas stations and banks.

• Restaurants may remain open offering take-out/delivery options only, as recommended by Governor Andrew Cuomo.

• City Hall operations will be extremely limited, as most staff will be reassigned to assist with emergency issues and operations.

• Our essential services departments, Police, Fire, Water, Public Works will operate at full service.

• As of now the following departments will be closed and those individuals are reassigned to address constituent needs and assist the Incident Command Team: Youth Bureau, Recreation, Office of the Aging, Public Works (office only), Water Supply (office only), Law and Planning.

• The Mayor's Office, City Clerk, and Assessor will be open on a limited basis. It is strongly encouraged that constituents call City Hall to ensure your concern can be addressed. Upon visiting City Hall, you will be asked to enter via the Stevens Avenue entrance and sign in with the security professional. All other entrances will be locked to the public.

• Parking meters will be suspended, but alternate side parking rules will be in effect

• We are working with the school district to allow people to park at the following locations during alternate side parking hours only.

• The lack of a full-service hospital in the City of Mount Vernon, which has been operating at sub-standard levels, requires that we take such measures for the benefit of the residents in this community. Montefiore Mount Vernon has withdrawn services and plans to close the hospital, even though our city and this nation faces the COVID-19 pandemic.

• We have called on our state officials to look at the comprehensive plan Montefiore has drafted for Mount Vernon hospital. We have also engaged the Governor's office to invest resources into fully utilizing the available vacant space to install beds to address new cases of the coronavirus. Currently, our EMS partners are being diverted to neighboring hospital facilities that are already overcrowded.

• The City of Mount Vernon is addressing the coronavirus outbreak as best as we can. The situation is fluid and changing as we receive direction from state and federal agencies. We must be prepared, and we will take the necessary actions to protect the City of Mount Vernon.

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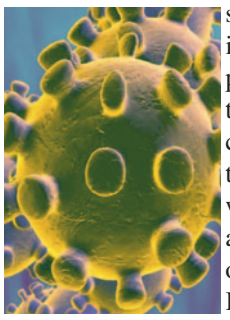
NEWS

Consulate General of Jamaica's staff test positive for COVID-19

The Consulate General of Jamaica in New York, confirmed today (March 18), the first positive test of the 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) by a staff member.

As a precautionary measure, the office will be closed effective immediately, to allow for all employees to self-quarantine for 14 days as per the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



The Consul General, Mrs. Alsion Wilson noted that after developing symptoms, the individual took the appropriate action and stayed home. "The Consulate is taking swift measures to mitigate the spread of the virus including a deep cleaning of the office space," she added.

"While we wish our colleague a rapid and full recovery, we will make every effort to continue to serve our fellow Jamaicans during this challenging period," Consul General Wilson indicated.

In addition to informing all staff members to go home or stay home as relevant, the Consul General encouraged those who were in close contact with the affected staff member to communicate with their doctors for guidance on their next steps.

Prior to today's announcement, the Consulate implemented a raft of measures to protect the health and wellbeing of its staff and the public. These steps included encouraging sick employees to stay home, increasing the sanitization of the office, cancelling large meetings and staff travel, increasing the use of teleworking among staff, and encouraging social distancing among other preventive measures.

During the period of the closure, the main telephone line of the Consulate (212-935-9000) will be manned remotely by senior staff members including the Consul General Mrs. Alsion Wilson, Mrs. Lisa Bryan Smart, Mr. Corey Whyte and Mr. Gregory Stewart.

Members of the Diaspora who are served by the Consulate are being asked to be understanding at this critical time and to only make contact with the Consulate for emergency purposes.

Bronx man indicted for smothering infant son with pillows

BRONX

A Bronx man, Teshawn Watkins, 27, has been indicted on Murder and Manslaughter charges in the death of his six-week-old son.

Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark said, "The defendant had complete disregard for the life of his infant son and allegedly killed him by smothering him with a pillow. We will hold him accountable for the death of this six-week-old defenseless child named Kaseem. The defendant is also charged with assaulting Kaseem's mother last year while she was pregnant with him."

According to the investigation, in the early morning of January 29, 2020, the defendant was in the apartment he shared with his girlfriend, Celicia Reyes, and their three children when his six-week-old son, Kaseem Watkins, began to cry.

The defendant allegedly became irate with the baby's crying and placed pillows on the infant, blocking his nose and mouth. The defendant went back to sleep and when he woke up, he saw the infant unconscious. The mother called 911 and the child was taken to Montefiore Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. An autopsy report revealed the child died of asphyxia due to smothering.

According to the investigation, the defendant allegedly placed pillows over Kaseem's head on at least one other occasion prior to the fatal incident, sometime between December 9, 2019 and January 29, 2020.

Video from a baby monitor camera allegedly shows Watkins grabbing Kaseem by the head and spinning his head, causing the child's body to flail into the air, and then covering the baby with pillows. Another video allegedly shows the defendant smothering and punching Reyes inside their home on October 27, 2019, while she was pregnant with Kaseem.

Over 400 Coronavirus Cases in the Caribbean

News Americas, NEW YORK, NY: The number of new coronavirus cases globally continues to grow and the number of cases in the Caribbean region is also spiking.

As of last night, a News Americas analysis has found there are now 403 cases.

The Dominican Republic has the most cases of COVID-19, jumping by 40 Saturday to 112. The country's death toll also increased to three, from two.

The French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe now has 56 cases as it added 5 new cases Saturday as it reported its first death. Martinique's total is now at 37 after it reported 5 new cases as well. Authorities there say they also have 1 death to date.

Trinidad and Tobago has reported 49, as the country added 40 on Saturday.

There are now 10 deaths across the region. Here's the count for other countries confirming COVID-19 cases to date:

Cuba's confirmed cases are 21 but its death tally stayed at one.

Jamaica – 19 plus one death; Puerto Rico – 21; Guyana – 18 plus one death; French Guiana – 18; Barbados – 14; USVI – 6; Aruba – 5; Saint Martin – 5; Suriname – 5; Bahamas – 4; Cayman Islands – 3 plus 1 death; Curacao – 3 plus one death; St. Barths – 3; Bermuda – 2; Haiti – 2; St. Lucia – 2; Antigua & Barbuda – 1; St. Vincent and the Grenadines – 1; Montserrat – 1; and Sint Maarten – 1

The Caribbean now has a total of 8 deaths.

CORONA FREE NATIONS

The only coronavirus free nations in the Caribbean currently are: Belize; Grenada; Turks & Caicos; Anguilla and The British Virgin Islands.

NEWS

COVID-19 Coronavirus outbreak affects the world

By Kadia-Loy Knight, Editor

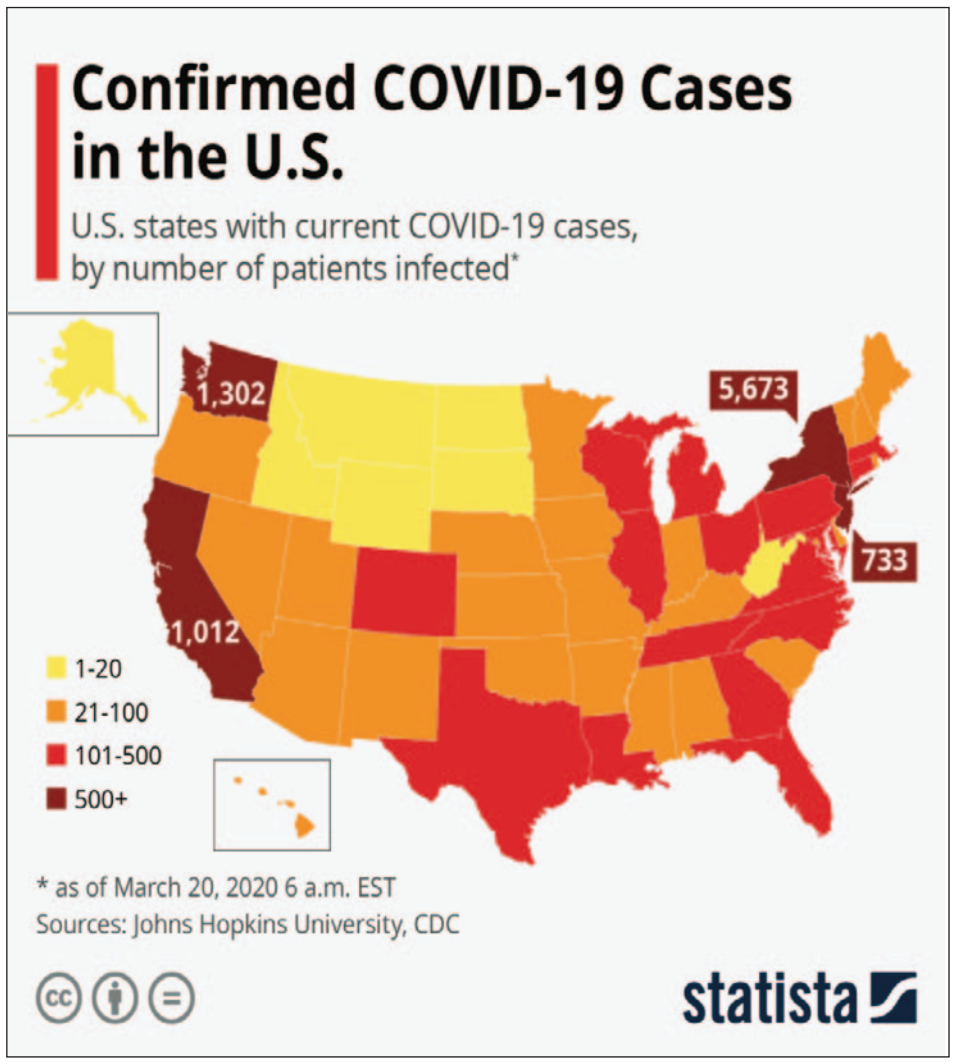
The COVD -19 pandemic has grown globally with over 200,000 cases.

According to Worldometer, it has been reported that the COVID-19 has increased to 259,176 globally with 10,546 and 89,922 in recovery cases. The coronavirus COVID-19 is affecting 183 countries and territories around the world and 1 international conveyance.

Cases reported international are as follows: China with 80,967 cases, Italy with 41,035, Spain with 20,412, Iran with 19,644, Germany with 18,756 cases, United States with 16,162, France with 10,995 cases, the UK with 3,269 and in the Caribbean Cuba with 16 cases, Jamaica with 16 cases and Guyana with 15 cases.

China and Italy top the chart for countries with the most cases. According to early estimates by China's National Health Commission (NHC), about 80% of those who died were over the age of 60 and 75% of them had pre-existing health conditions such as cardiovascular diseases and diabetes.

Out of the number of 80,967 cases in China, around 71,150 cases have recovered and Italy have 4,440 total in recovery cases.



Kamina Johnson Smith
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign

Jamaican Missions Closed in New York, Washington DC and London

Jamaica will be closing its Consulate General in New York, and the consular departments in Washington DC and London for one week starting on Monday (March 16), due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, in making the announcement at a press briefing at the Office of the Prime Minister on Thursday (March 12), said that the situation will be monitored to see if further extension is required.

"This is a precautionary measure to protect persons from spreading the virus, by limiting nationals having to gather to access services in person and, of course, the transit to our relevant missions," she noted.

She said that the Ministry has mandated all High Commissions, Embassies and Consulates to assess the risk posed by the spread of the virus in their respective locations and to make appropriate adjustments to their operations.

"This should include not only the provision of appropriate sanitary products at the locations but the adjustment of opening hours, implementation of remote working arrangements and any other appropriate safety measures," she noted.

"Their responses are at different stages and we will make decisions based on the respective situational analysis and priorities," she added.

In the interim, Senator Johnson Smith said, "we are recommending the use of online passport and mail-in applications and other services, as well as telephone enquiries where appropriate".

Other adjustments include staggering the working hours for members of staff who use public transportation in areas where there has been an outbreak.

"This is intended to ensure that they don't have to be confined at close quarters during the rush hour given the risks at play," Senator Johnson Smith noted.

In the meantime, the Minister indicated that all overseas staff have been advised that no approvals will be granted for non-essential travel until further notice in keeping with the travel restriction policy for government workers.

Jamaica Records 16 Cases of COVID-19

Jamaica now has sixteen (16) confirmed cases of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The latest case is a 57-year-old male with a travel history to New York. He arrived in the island on March 10 and visited his private physician on March 16. He reported having had symptoms for six days. The necessary contact tracing is now being done.

Meanwhile, Jamaica reported its first COVID-19-related death on March 18. The deceased is a 79-year-old man, also with a travel history to New York. He also had diabetes and hypertension.

Public gatherings and non-essential travel are discouraged.

For more information, contact the Ministry of Health & Wellness at the COVID-19 lines: 888-754-7792 and 888-ONE-LOVE (663-5683). Information and updates on COVID-19 can also be found at the Ministry's website at https://www.moh.gov.jm and social media platforms @themohwgovjm.

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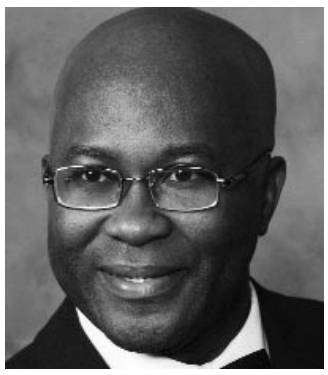

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To clear a warrant you must first go to the Central clerk's Office in the courthouse where your case is being heard. It is best to go to the clerk's office when the courthouse opens at 9:00 a.m. to be sure to have enough time to clear the warrant, since it can take time for the court staff to locate your case file. The clerk will probably instruct you to go to the court part to wait for the case to be called. It can take some time for the papers to be sent to the court part. Be patient.

If you are represented by The Legal Aid Society, the Court will advise the office that you are in court, and an attorney from the office will speak on your behalf. However, if your case is called without a lawyer being present, you may be asked to personally explain why you did not appear as scheduled. You should be prepared to answer this question but should not discuss the facts of the case with the judge.

What if my jail time or sentence is wrong?

In most cases, the time spent in jail before a prisoner is sentenced should be credited toward the sentence that is imposed. However, prisoners often find that they have not been credited with all the time they have spent in jail, resulting in a later release date. The steps prisoners should take to have the error corrected vary, depending on whether they are located in a City jail or in State prison.

LEGAL NEWS IN BRIEF

NY Atty Dies Following COVID-19 Complications

New York City defense attorney Richard E. Weber Jr., a partner at Gallo Vitucci Klar LLP and a longtime board member of the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York, died as a result of complications from the new coronavirus, the LGBT Bar said Thursday.

1st NY State Judge Tests Positive For COVID-19 In Queens

A New York Supreme Court Justice in Queens County has tested positive for COVID-19, marking the first reported case in the state judiciary.

NY Judge Swats Down Sanford Heisler Math Error Claim

A Manhattan federal judge on Thursday rejected a claim by the firm representing a former Columbia University professor in a sexual harassment trial that she made a math error in slashing its fee request by 75% to $1.34 million — a quick smackdown that followed a request for more money.

US Trustee Flags McClatchy's Retention of Skadden, Togut

The U.S. Trustee's Office Thursday objected to newspaper chain McClatchy Co.'s choice of Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom and Togut Segal & Segal as Chapter 11 counsel, telling a New York bankruptcy judge one firm failed to disclose ties to a 2018 restructuring deal and the other can't objectively investigate the deal.

Manhattan Atty With COVID-19 Recovering Well, Wife Says

The Manhattan attorney who was the first New Yorker diagnosed with COVID-19 as a result of community spread is recovering well from the illness, though he remains hospitalized, according to a post his wife made on social media Wednesday.

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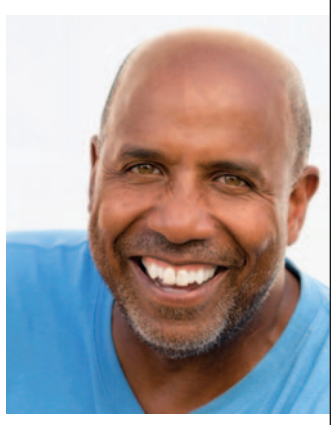

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Jamaican Diaspora Benefiting from Legal Services Between New York and Jamaica

Cari-Jam Legal, Patrick O. Forrester P.C., is a New York based law office providing legal services to the New York Community and to Jamaicans in the United States with legal issues in Jamaica.

According to the Owner/Attorney, former Administrative Law Judge, Patrick O. Forrester, in addition to being a New York law practice for nearly fifteen years, it has since extended itself as a bridge for Jamaicans in New York and other parts of the United States to directly access the Jamaican legal system and other processes without having to depend on friends and relatives. Also, in most instances without the expense of having to travel to the island simply to access these services.

Attorney Forrester, stated, that "Having been a lawyer in New York, especially serving the Jamaican community, I saw the need for this service more and more as I listened to many sad stories of people, including clients, with difficulties accessing proper legal services in Jamaica or difficulties getting their matters resolved." So, he became a lawyer in Jamaica in 2012, thereby becoming a direct link for clients in New York, other parts of the United States and even other parts of the world.

"At Cari-Jam Legal one of our goals is to shorten the time clients spend waiting to have their legal matters resolved. He said, "The client-attorney relationship is one of trust and we stay in constant close connection with our clients during their legal matter making the process transparent."

People are comfortable having direct access to an attorney in New York who also operates in Jamaica and can assist them with matters in that jurisdiction. The attorney stated that, "This is possible because most legal issues do not require having to travel to Jamaica if they do not involve the court, and even when they do certain matters may not require court appearances."

Patrick O. Forrester, Esq.

Having many satisfied clients, and with more people knocking at their doors, Cari-Jam Legal, Patrick O. Forrester, P.C., in addition to being a general practice in New York expanded their services to the broader Jamaican community in New York and the rest of The United States and collaborates with the law office of Patrick O. Forrester, Esq. in Kingston, Jamaica and other attorneys and experts, to provide the highest quality legal services to Jamaicans away from home.

The law office of Patrick O. Forrester, Esq., is located at 51A Duke Street, Kingston, Jamaica W.I. and can be reached at (876-727-6157) if you are in Jamaica.

Regular practice areas include Land Transactions /Conveyancing (Buyers & Sellers); Property Recovery/Eviction of Tenants; Property Matters & Disputes; Personal Injury (Motor Vehicle Accidents; Tourist Accidents & Police Abuse); Divorce; Probating of Wills & Raising Letters of Administration; Attending Immigration Interviews in Jamaica; Assistance with CRBA & US Passport for children born abroad to US citizens.

The Jamaican community welcomes this service in New York and wishes Cari-Jam Legal great success.

Services To Jamaica include:

- Property Transfer
- Registration of Property
- Application for First Time Title
- Application for Lost Title
- Property Valuation and Survey
- Payment of Property Taxes
- Notation of Death on Title (of a deceased joint tenant)
- Notice to Tenants/Property Recovery for Properties in Jamaica
- Drafting Wills
- Resealing of Grants (in Jamaica)
- Assistance with US-CRBA & US Passport for Children of US Citizens.
- Filing Immigrant US Visa Applications
- Attending US Immigration Interviews in Jamaica
- Obtaining Fingerprints in Jamaica for FBI process in the USA.
- Authentication and Legalization of documents
- Deed Poll
- Preparing Powers of Attorney

Obtaining Documents:

- Taxpayer's Registration Number (TRN)
- Birth Certificate
- Marriage Certificate
- Death Certificate

Attorney, Patrick O. Forrester, Esq., spends time between both his New York and Jamaica offices each month dealing with legal issues and litigating in the courts of both jurisdictions.

For further information and to set an appointment for a consultation, please go to our website: www.cari-jamlegal.com or call us at 718-325-5500.

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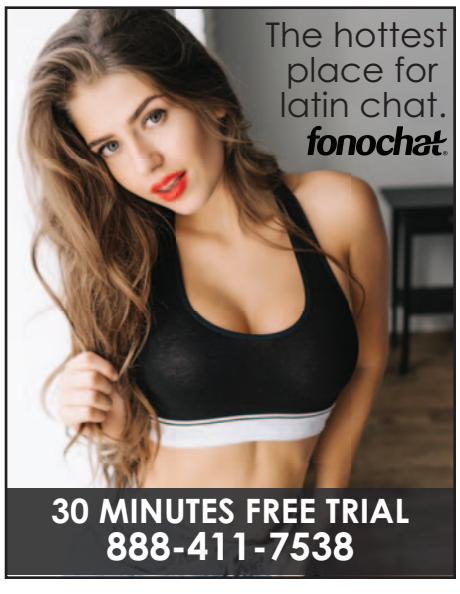

Pleasant Smith releases Ashia's Gift!

Relationship coach, podcaster and author Pleasant Smith recently published her first book entitled "Ashia's Gift" – the true story of a working single mother with mental illness and the hardship she encounters in raising her children.

Smith loves and enjoys all areas of her professional life and strives to excel in her career with a driven passion for serving.

She was raised as part of an extended family in Claremont, St Ann (Jamaica WI) which includes several male cousins and her older brother. She was more of a "tomboy" as she was often in the company of boys having fun as well as benefiting from their guidance and protection.

She obtained her high school diploma from Ferncourt High School, Jamaica and later a certificate of achievement in business education from the Caribbean School of Business.

Always a working mom and a proud mother of three sons and a daughter. Smith said her most filling purpose is the joy of raising children that are successful academically and very discipline.

She currently lives in Connecticut and enjoys the serenity mood that inspires her to fulfil her dreams to be a prolific writer.

ENTERTAINMENT

Reggae Sumfest's New York launch party postponed

The New York launch party for Reggae Sumfest has been postponed amid the outbreak of the coronavirus, COVID-19.

The event was originally scheduled for March 26, at Bogart House in Brooklyn.

Sumfest organiser Joe Bogdanovich is yet to confirm a new date, however, he is toying with the idea of using an online platform.

He noted that his team had put contingencies in place and is considering various alternatives within the new coronavirus guidelines set out by the Government.

The festival scheduled for July 12 to 18 in Montego Bay.

YOUNG TALENT:
Seven-year-old Hayden Hemmings plays the violin for his audience at the Consulate General of Jamaica, New York's Black History Month celebration held on Feb 28, 2020, the Consulate's New York City offices.

Jamaica Carnival 2020 postponed until October

The Ministries of Health Tourism, Culture and Entertainment have decided to postpone the staging of Carnival in Jamaica 2020 Road Marches to October.

All costumes and T-shirts purchased for any of the events which were to be held in April will be valid for the October staging.

Carnival in Jamaica's Road Parade with bands Bacchanal Jamaica, Xaymaca International, and Xodus Carnival will be on Sunday, October 25.

The Ocho Rios Carnival Road Parade as well as the Downtown Kingston Carnival Parade will be on National Heroes' Day, Monday, October 19.

Discussions have also taken place with hotels and airline partners to waive change fees for rebooking to October.

Hip hop museum being launched in Bronx

Music genre hip hop is getting its own museum in its birthplace in the Bronx, New York.

A small pop-up exhibit is being launched, giving patrons a preview of the Universal Hip Hop Museum's permanent home, set to open in 2023 to celebrate the culture's global history.

The museum will seek to ensure that the stories can be told accurately by the people who created the history themselves.

The project is supported by rappers Nas, Ice-T and LL Cool J.

Construction is set to start in July, with the grand opening planned to mark 50 years of hip hop in 2023.

It pays to advertise in
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COVID-19

How It Spreads

COVID-19 is a new disease and we are still learning how it spreads, the severity of illness it causes, and to what extent it may spread in the United States.

Person-to-person spread

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person. Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).

Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Can someone spread the virus without being sick?

People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).

Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms; there have been reports of this occurring with this new coronavirus, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Spread from contact with contaminated surfaces or objects

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

How easily the virus spreads

How easily a virus spreads from person-to-person can vary. Some viruses are highly contagious (spread easily), like measles, while other viruses do not spread as easily. Another factor is whether the spread is sustained, spreading continually without stopping.

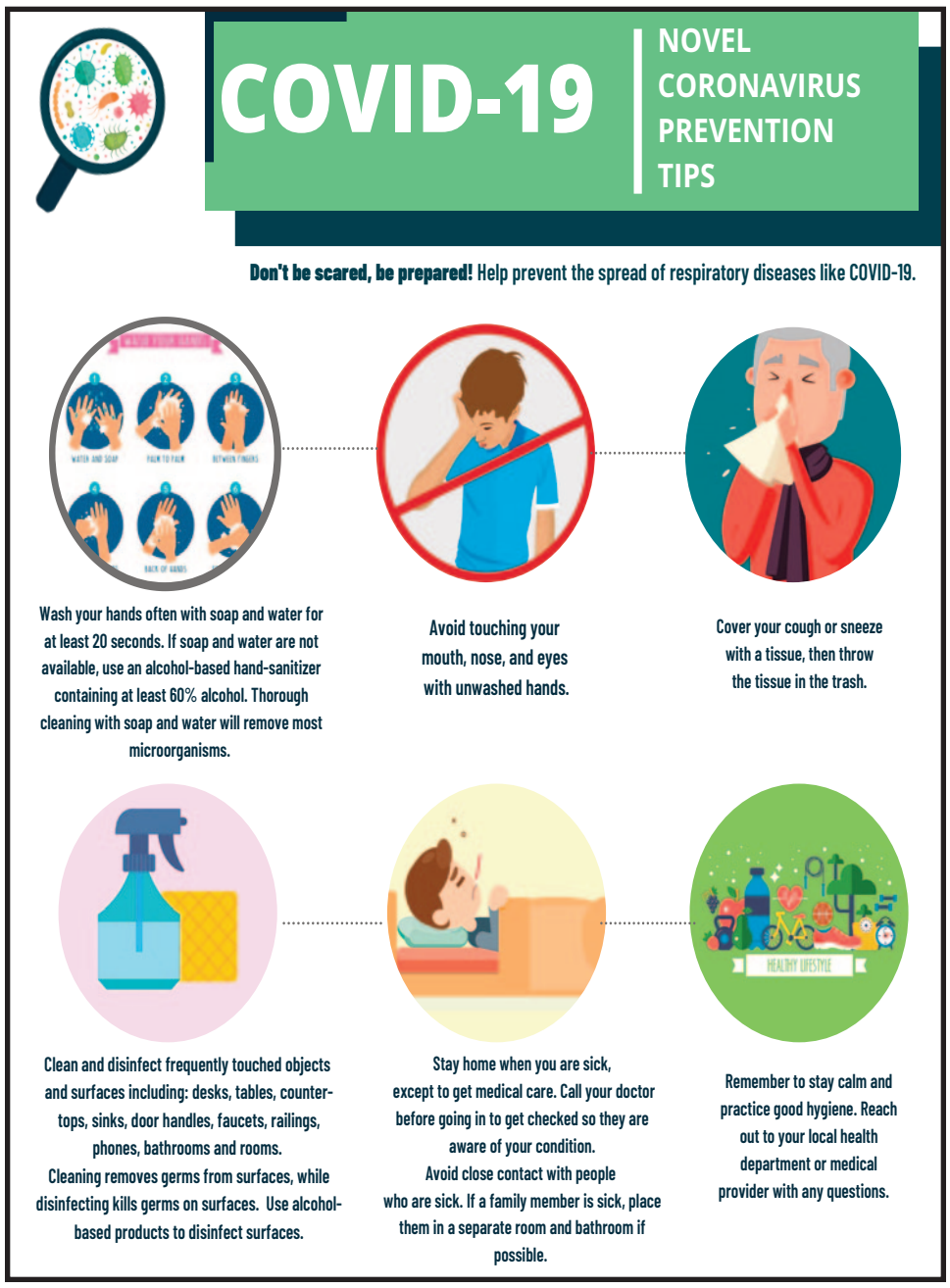
The virus that causes COVID-19 seems to be spreading easily and sustainably in the community ("community spread") in some affected geographic areas.

Community spread means people have been infected with the virus in an area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected.

Situation in U.S.

Different parts of the country are seeing different levels of COVID-19 activity. The United States nationally is currently in the initiation phases, but states where community spread is occurring are in the acceleration phase. The duration and severity of each phase can vary depending on the characteristics of the virus and the public health response.

CDC and state and local public health laboratories are testing for the virus that causes COVID-19. View CDC's Public Health Laboratory Testing map.



Cannabis News

Cresco Labs Announces Opening of First Four Sunnyside in New York

BUSINESS WIRE:

Cresco Labs, one of the largest vertically integrated multistate cannabis operators in the United States, has announced the conversion of four dispensaries to Cresco's nationwide retail brand, Sunnyside, in the Williamsburg neighborhood in Brooklyn, Huntington Station, New Hartford and Bardonia, New York.

Cresco has also launched a home delivery service for medical cannabis patients in the New Hartford area of New York. Patients can place orders for home delivery for a variety of products including vape pens and cartridges, topical creams, oral tinctures and capsules at Sunnyside.shop. Cresco plans to roll out its medical cannabis home delivery program to the three other communities with Sunnyside* locations in the coming months.

These dispensaries in the state of New York are the first stores to be rebranded under Cresco's national retail brand on the East Coast. Cresco holds one of the 10 vertically integrated cannabis business licenses granted in the state by the New York State Department of Health. Each license gives the operator the right to operate one cultivation facility and four dispensaries in New York.

"As we continue to build our national retail brand and consolidate the five dispensary brands we operate around the country under the Sunnyside* name, we remain focused on ensuring that we deliver against the promise of what Sunnyside* stands for—wellness, education and convenience," said Charlie Bachtell, Cresco Labs' CEO and co-founder. "New York has a growing medical cannabis patient program of more than 114,000 people who look to dispensaries and their cannabis product forms to treat a variety of qualifying conditions and critical illnesses.

With Sunnyside, we aim to provide a best-in-class shopping experience through ongoing education, product availability and technology. The ease of home delivery provides the convenience that many living in New York will appreciate with the benefit of the quality and consistency that regulated, third-party tested, cannabis products can provide. Home delivery plays a critical role in our ecommerce strategy, and we are excited to offer this service to reach medical cannabis patients in our communities with the right products they need."

New Jersey Supreme Court Rules Employers Must Accommodate Workers' Off-Duty Medical Cannabis Use

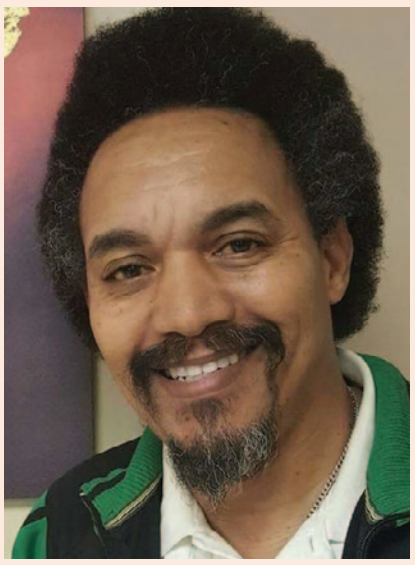
NEW JERSEY:

The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled March 10 that employers must accommodate workers' off-duty medical cannabis use in a decision that marks a shift in the courts' view of medical cannabis in the state, according to Pashman Stein Associate Dillon McGuire.

Justin Wild, a former funeral director for Feeney Funeral Home, had been treating his cancer with medical cannabis for a year without receiving any negative performance evaluations from his employer. When Wild had a minor car accident while on duty, Feeney Funeral Home tested him for drugs and alcohol as part of their company policy.

"At that time, he said, 'Look, I have this medical marijuana card. I guarantee my test will be positive for marijuana, but it's prescribed. I'm using it at home, after work hours,'" McGuire, whose firm was an amicus on the case, representing the ACLU and arguing on behalf of the plaintiff, told Cannabis Business Times.

When Wild failed the drug test, Feeney Funeral Home terminated him, prompting him to file a claim under New Jersey's law against discrimination, alleging that his employer discriminated against him based on his medical condition and his need to use cannabis to treat it.



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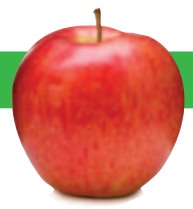

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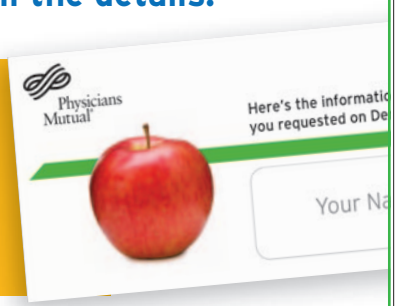

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SPORTS

Penn Relays 2020 canceled

Will look to host a substitute track meet at later date

PHILADELPHIA:

The Division of Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics at the University of Pennsylvania has announced that the 2020 Penn Relays, scheduled for April 23 through 25, has been canceled due to the evolving coronavirus public health threat.

The Penn Relays, which has been contested uninterrupted since 1895, celebrated its 125th consecutive running last year. In its place, Penn will endeavor to host a substitute track meet at a later date in late May or early June.

"Based on the current novel coronavirus pandemic, we cannot host an event in late April without putting our participants, spectators, officials, volunteers, and staff at risk," said Dr. M. Grace Calhoun, the T. Gibbs Kane, Jr. W'69 Director of Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics at the University of Pennsylvania.

"We remain hopeful that the recent measures put in place by many health organizations, government officials, and academic institutions will curtail the spread of this disease. The University of Pennsylvania has hosted the Penn Relays for 125 consecutive years through the World Wars and other world-wide health issues. This spirit of perseverance and resiliency will continue as we plan for a track meet later in the year when the health and safety of our community is more certain."

The scope of the track meet will not be the standard Penn Relays format. The three-day event will shorten into a one-day event designed to provide the opportunity for youth, high school, and open runners to persevere and enjoy a competitive and festive atmosphere which they might have missed this spring.

"No one associated with the Penn Relays has ever wanted to see a cancellation," said Dave Johnson, the Frank Dolson Director of the Penn Relays. "While participating in the meet as an athlete, coach or official remains a bucket list goal for many, the event has long served as an annual homecoming for families, friends, teams and social groups. Without the Penn Relays, springtime in Philadelphia will not be the same. We will be back for the 2021 Penn Relays on April 22 through 24 at Franklin Field, when we hope to see brighter days and be reunited with Penn Relays family."

The Penn Relays has adapted to worldwide conditions in the past. The meet was altered in 1917 and 1918 when several colleges, including most Ivy League institutions, curtailed their track programs during World War I. During World War II, travel restrictions reduced participation and spectator attendance while gas rationing was in effect in 1943 and 1944.

"After a fantastic year planning and celebrating our first 125 years, this momentary pause will allow us to kick off the strategic vision of the next 125 years of the Penn Relays," said Scott Ward, Executive Director of the Penn Relays.

Chelsea plans bid for Reggae Boy Leon

Jamaican international Leon Bailey is back on the radar of English Premier League teams.

Reports have surfaced that former EPL champions Chelsea are lining up an £85 million bid for the skillful winger. Reports also suggest that Bailey, who has scored seven goals in 22 appearances in all competitions this season, is also attracting interest from Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal.

While Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich are also keeping an eye on developments with Bailey who has three years left on his contract, his present club Bayer Leverkusen would prefer to sell to a non-German club. One report details that Chelsea scouts were particularly impressed by Bailey's performance against Rangers last week.

Leon Bailey

The 22-year-old was a standout performer against Steven Gerrard's side in the Europa League at Ibrox, scoring the third goal in a 3-1 first-leg victory.

Jamaican cricketer returns home from Pakistan faced with quarantine

Jamaica's Chadwick Walton now faces being quarantined, as he will be returning home from the Pakistan Super League, which has been suspended following the revelation that an overseas cricketer, who has now left Pakistan, had shown symptoms of the corona virus.

Walton along with St Lucian and former West Indies captain Darren Sammy and Barbadian Carlos Brathwaite were the West Indians taking part in the tournament.

While Brathwaite was among some overseas-based players who left Pakistan last week, Walton and Sammy have remained. Walton says it's a bitter sweet feeling returning home.

"From the start of the tournament due to our security protocol, we had limited contact with the wider society so I think we had limited contact with the virus. Heading home is always a great feeling for me, but this time it will be a mixed feeling because I think I will have to be in isolation for 14 days," he said.

Meanwhile, the 35-year-old St Elizabeth native says the continued spread of the virus worldwide will have an impact on the livelihood of professional athletes.

Caribbean sporting events canned as COVID-19 cases uptick

News Americas:

As COVID-19 cases across the region continue to uptick, sporting events across the Caribbean and in its Diaspora are also being canned.

The 35th annual 2020 CARIFTA has been postponed due the novel coronavirus Pandemic. The Games was scheduled to take place in Bermuda this April10-13, 2020. The news came as the Cayman Islands joined Antigua and Barbuda, and the Bahamas in withdrawing from the competition.

"We would have never predicted an occurrence of this magnitude a week ago. We were deep in preparations making our final adjustments," The Bermuda National Athletics Association said in a statement. "We were ready to host the 2020 CARIFTA Games and ready to welcome the 27 countries to our shores." Bermuda has remained coronavirus free.

CRICKET

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has also taken the decision to suspend all CWI Tournaments and face-to-face group meetings for a minimum of 30 days, beginning on Monday March 16th.

Suspended are the:

Final two rounds of the West indies Championship – 26th to 29th March and 2nd – 5th April; The Women's CMI Super 50 Cup, Guyana – 27th March to 12th April; Regional Under 15s Boys Championship, Antigua – 9th to 20th April; Regional Under 19s Girls Championship, Trinidad – 6th to 12th April.

CWI has also advised all territorial boards and local cricket associations to follow the advice of their respective ministries of health.

ATHLETICS

The Jamaican government as well as ISSA and Sponsor, GraceKennedy have also canceled this year's staging of the Inter-secondary Schools Sports Association (ISSA)/GraceKennedy Boys' and Girls' Athletics Championships in Jamaica and all participation at the Penn Relays since last week.

Then on Friday, March 13th, Team Jamaica Bickle announced it was also pulling out of the Penn Relays. On Monday, March 16th, The Division of Recreation and Intercollegiate Athletics at the University of Pennsylvania announced that the 126th running of the Penn Relays will be canceled for the first time in its history this year.

NEW JERSEY NEWS

Up to 1,000 inmates in New Jersey ordered released

Hundreds of inmates being held in New Jersey jails will be temporarily released as part of the state's efforts to stem the spread of the coronavirus, under an agreement struck late Sunday by the state's prosecutors and criminal justice advocates.

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner ordered two classes of inmates released by 6 a.m. Tuesday: Those serving jail sentences as a condition of probation and those serving time from a municipal court conviction.

Those in jail for probation violations and low-level crimes — fourth-degree, disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons offenses — will be released Thursday.

Up to 1,000 inmates will be released, according to the ACLU, which along with the state Office of the Public Defender sought the action.

"Unprecedented times call for rethinking the normal way of doing things, and in this case it means releasing people who pose little risk to their communities for the sake of public health and the dignity of people who are incarcerated," ACLU-NJ Executive Director Amol Singha said in a statement.

Attorney General Gurbir Grewal and the County Prosecutors Association of the State of New Jersey also signed onto the agreement.

The order allows county prosecutors to challenge the release of inmates. It also suspends their sentences until the coronavirus crisis has passed rather than commute the sentences, but gives judges the discretion whether to order inmates back to jail later or give them credit for time served.

The Public Defender's Office first sought the release Thursday in a letter to Rabner.

"It is inevitable that the virus will spread into the county jails and, when that happens, the health and well-being of inmates and jail staff members will be at tremendous risk," Public Defender Joseph Krakora wrote.

New Jersey man arrested for attacking ex-girlfriend with Machete

A New Jersey man has been indicted on Attempted Murder and Assault in a machete attack on his ex-girlfriend that has left her with life-altering injuries.

Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark said, "The defendant allegedly struck this 20-year-old woman, who is the mother of his two-year-old daughter, in her face, hand and neck with a machete.

She survived the brutal attack but will live with grievous wounds and enduring trauma.

She has shown great courage and we will bring justice for her."

According to the investigation, at approximately 9 p.m. on February 21, 2020 inside the lobby of 2685 Grand Concourse, the defendant allegedly approached Lisbeth Acosta-Ramirez, 20, with a machete and attempted to cause her death by striking her on the right side of her face, her right hand and the back of her neck, causing deep bleeding lacerations. Acosta-Ramirez was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital and underwent reconstructive and life-saving surgery.

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TAX

Tax Day now July 15:

Treasury, IRS extend filing deadline and federal tax payments regardless of amount owed

WASHINGTON:

The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service announced today that the federal income tax filing due date is automatically extended from April 15, 2020, to July 15, 2020.

Taxpayers can also defer federal income tax payments due on April 15, 2020, to July 15, 2020, without penalties and interest, regardless of the amount owed. This deferment applies to all taxpayers, including individuals, trusts and estates, corporations and other non-corporate tax filers as well as those who pay self-employment tax.

Taxpayers do not need to file any additional forms or call the IRS to qualify for this automatic federal tax filing and payment relief. Individual taxpayers who need additional time to file beyond the July 15 deadline, can request a filing extension by filing Form 4868 through their tax professional, tax software or using the Free File link on IRS.gov. Businesses who need additional time must file Form 7004.

The IRS urges taxpayers who are due a refund to file as soon as possible. Most tax refunds are still being issued within 21 days.

"Even with the filing deadline extended, we urge taxpayers who are owed refunds to file as soon as possible and file electronically," said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. "Filing electronically with direct deposit is the quickest way to get refunds. Although we are curtailing some operations during this period, the IRS is continuing with mission-critical operations to support the nation, and that includes accepting tax returns and sending refunds. As a federal agency vital to the overall operations of our country, we ask for your personal support, your understanding – and your patience. I'm incredibly proud of our employees as we navigate through numerous different challenges in this very rapidly changing environment."

The IRS will continue to monitor issues related to the COVID-19 virus, and updated information will be posted on a special coronavirus page on IRS.gov.

This announcement comes following the President's emergency declaration last week pursuant to the Stafford Act. The Stafford Act is a federal law designed to bring an orderly and systematic means of federal natural disaster and emergency assistance for state and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to aid citizens. It was enacted in 1988.

Treasury and IRS will issue additional guidance as needed and continue working with Congress, on a bipartisan basis, on legislation to provide further relief to the American people.

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Taxpayer Bill of Rights:

The right to confidentiality

The IRS won't share any information a taxpayer gives IRS with outside parties, unless allowed by the taxpayer or by law. This is the right to confidentiality - the eighth of ten rights taxpayers have under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.

The right to confidentiality means:

The IRS won't give a any information to a third party without permission from the taxpayer.

The agency can't contact third parties such as an employer, neighbor, or bank for information unless the they give taxpayer reasonable notice first.

The same confidentiality a taxpayer has with an attorney also applies to tax professionals working with the IRS on the taxpayer's behalf.

Confidential communications include conversations, messages, documents, and info that:

Fall within the tax professional's authority to practice before the IRS, but it doesn't include tax return preparation.

Are considered private or restricted between the taxpayer and their attorney.

Relate to noncriminal tax matters with the IRS, or noncriminal tax cases in federal court.

Also, tax professionals can't share or use their clients' tax information for any reason other than preparing a return.

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RELATIONSHIP

Mistakes People Commonly Make In Relationships

By Ashley Papa

After months or years of swiping, you've finally found a person worth keeping around for a while. While the early part of a new relationship can be a rush of fun and excitement, those first few weeks can also help determine whether the relationship moves forward or not—and whether it will be healthy.

Mistake #1: Falling Too Fast: You're one week in and tell yourself, he/she is "the one." These days, many people aren't in any hurry to commit seriously. There may be chemistry and a connection, but your new partner may just see you as a short-term fling. Avoid falling too fast until you're sure your partner views the relationship with the same level of seriousness as you do.

Mistake #2: Revealing Emotions Too Soon: When it comes to passionate exclamations like, "I think I'm falling in love with you," think it, don't say it. The early stages of a relationship usually seem so promising and even if you feel deeply comfortable, your emotions may be more advanced than theirs. "Share with your partner as much as they share with you and only if it feels right."

Mistake #3: Talking Yourself Out of Concerns: Maybe you thought it was weird how he or she checked out the server on your first date, or didn't pick up the tab, or made an off-color "joke" that didn't feel quite right—but all his or her charm, good looks, and intelligence makes up for it, right?! Wrong. If your gut is picking up on little things, but you keep telling yourself a certain narrative about how you could be meant for each other, it may spell disaster down the road.

Mistake #4: Blowing Them up Constantly: Texting all day long is the new normal. And when you like someone, of course, you want to talk and hear from them all the time. But compulsive texting can be a huge turnoff early in dating, as it is smothering and can show neediness and a lack of self-control. Try to match your partner's texting frequency (unless they're the ones overdoing it).

Mistake #5: Getting Physical Too Quickly: By all means have sex when you want, but know that sometimes when sex enters a relationship early, it can hijack your emotions and cloud your judgment, explains relationship expert LaVonya Reeves. "I think a lot of people experience this. You start dating someone and begin a relationship that's also sexual. But, if you're not really connected beyond the sex, it can complicate the relationship too soon."

Mistake #6: Getting Nosy About $$$: It's OK to ask what he or she does for a living and how they like their job, but don't go much beyond that. When you start asking questions like, "Do you rent or own?," "What kind of car do you drive?," or, "Do you invest in the market?" they're going to know you're digging for financial info—which is something some people are private about and prefer to save for later.

Mistake #7: Faking Interest in Their Hobbies: "You may be able to tolerate one concert, fishing trip, or 'Ballers' episode, but if you pretend it's fantastic, you're going to be stuck with it for a while. Be politely honest and, after all, being interested in different things keeps relationships interesting," says couples therapist Karol Ward.

Mistake #8: Getting Too Clingy: Some people become smothering quickly in the beginning of a relationship, which often backfires and makes the other person eventually withdrawal. "People need space," says Reeves. "You definitely have to give your partner their private time… without you."

Mistake #9: Ignoring Red Flags: It's tempting to overlook less-than-ideal personality traits in the beginning of a relationship, either because you're smitten, or because you really want things to work out (or both). But don't overlook lying, name-calling, aggression, verbalized jealousy, or an overindulgence in substances—as these can all be warning signs of a future toxic relationship.

Mistake #10: Acting Too Permissive: Laughing off something like an overly close relationship between your partner and his/her ex in the early stages in an attempt to come off as cool may come back to bite you later on, and your partner may not understand why it suddenly irks you, says Cassuto.

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